

**Head**

Rupert Moreton, BA, MA, M.Ed

*Think for yourself, act for others*

## Cheney Communications

31 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Year 11 and Year 13

We have no further updates about the awarding of grades for Years 11 and 13 (other than BTEC below) since the letter we sent to parents last week: <https://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Year-11-and-Year-13-exam-update-March-2020.pdf>

We know many students are finding it hard to be motivated to continue with the work being set by teachers when they do not know if it is needed or will 'count'. We also know that many students, parents and carers are finding this uncertainty stressful. We do not know yet what the exam boards might ask us to send in to support each student and their grades. Therefore, we are asking our Y11 and Y13 students to continue to check ShowMyHomework and try their best to complete the work being set. We think that this is important not only to possibly support our students' grades, but also to contribute to their learning, development, independence and readiness for post-16 or post-18 study or work.

As soon as we know from Ofqual exactly what their plans are for the awarding of grades and evidence, we will let you know. In the meantime, please continue with the 'little and often' approach.

Our teachers are trying their best to set the work they think may be most helpful for our Y11 and Y13 students. This will vary in content and quantity according to how far through the courses each subject had got before closure, and whether or not subjects have teachers who are in good health and able to set work. But this is a very uncertain time for us all: please bear with us!

Edexcel Pearson have updated their guidance on BTEC courses, but not on how the final grade will be awarded. All students should complete existing assignments as directed by their teachers, but students in Y11 and Y13 should not be expected to complete any new assignments or sit external assessments. Students will continue to be entered for external assessments/exams/retakes and arrangements for providing a predicted grade will be communicated with the school in the coming weeks.

### Y10 RE GCSE and Y12 BTEC Exams

We have asked the exam boards about the Y10 RE GCSE and Y12 BTEC exams and have not as yet received any direction. It is, however, unlikely that the exam board will take the same approach for Y10/Y12 as they have for Y11 and Y13 above. We suspect that the exam board will require Y10/12s to sit the exams either in September, January 2021 or the summer of 2021. As soon as we know what their decision regarding the awarding of grades is, we will let you know. In the meantime, please continue with the 'little and often' revision approach.

### Wellbeing, anxiety and school work

We know this is an anxious time for everyone in our school community: parents/carers, students and staff. We know our families will be doing their best and that it will be harder for some families and students than others. Please encourage your children to structure their day and take the 'little and often' approach to school work, interspersed with things that they enjoy. Staff have been asked to set work which is as useful and clear as possible: of course, it's difficult to get it exactly right for every child and we are happy to advise



## Cheney School

Cheney Lane, Headington  
Oxford OX3 7QH

T: 01865 765726 F: 01865 767399

E: office@cheney.oxon.sch.uk

W: www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk



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any parents with questions if they contact the Heads of Faculty. Thank you for all you are doing at home to support your children and please be reassured that we continue to be available to support as best we can.

You will be aware the internet hosts many exciting opportunities for education. The online world is a wonderful place for young people to explore, with unprecedented opportunities for learning and creativity, but just like the real world there are risks and dangers they should be aware of and which we should all act to protect them from. As a school we encourage the use of technology as an important part of our students' development but always want them to spend their time online safely. As a parent/carer you can play a significant part in ensuring this. Please see the following link to our [E-Safety guidelines](#) on our school website.

After the Easter break, we will also be seeking more specific parental feedback: finding out what is working well and what we could be doing more effectively. Please keep your eyes open and, in the meantime, continue to keep in touch with Heads of Faculty and the year teams if you have any questions.

### Free School Meals

In line with the Government advice, we will be issuing supermarket e-vouchers in the coming days to those who qualify for Free School Meals. The government scheme to enable us to buy these vouchers was only launched today, but we will send vouchers to relevant families as soon as we are in a position to do so. We are hoping this will be by the end of the week. If you have immediate concerns or need support, please contact year teams directly.

### Easter opening

Cheney School will remain open to some pupils during the Easter Holidays in order to maintain provision for children of workers critical to the COVID19 response, as per the Government guidance issued to all schools. We are **only** able to run provision for children of workers critical to the COVID19 response where the children **cannot** be cared for at home. There will be minimal staff on site during this period: a sufficient number to maintain safety. The school will be open Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April till Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April and will be open from 09.00 – 14.45. Please note we are **not open** on Good Friday or Easter Monday. Pupils will be cared for by school staff and have access to the library, computers and the playground during this period. Students will be able to read, go online and watch films in the Library. Children who attend will be required to bring their own packed lunch as school catering facilities will be unavailable in the Easter Break. For pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals and will be attending please contact your year team so we can make the necessary arrangements.

### Setting work over Easter

Teachers will not be setting work during the Easter holiday period for students working from home or coming in to school at this time. Teachers may liaise with students in Years 11 and 13 as we work with the exam boards.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Cheney Communications

